

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST

by
Fulton Lewis, Jr.

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Now in some past broadcasts, ladies and gentlemen, I have reported to you on the sort of material that is being broadcast by the Czechoslovakian and the Hungarian desks of Radio Free Europe in Munich. Tonight, let's take a look at the Rumanian desk and see what's been going on there under the guise of sending the message of hope and freedom to the Communist-enslaved people behind the iron curtain.

There are three key political groups into which Rumanian exiles fall, generally speaking. First, there is the so-called Iron Guard group, which represents the former the rightist nationalist movement in Rumania. It is ultraconservative and ultranationalistic and even fascist in its philosophy. It believes in a stern dictatorship run by the people who are part of the movement. Second, there is the Rumanian National Committee, appointed by the former King Michael, who is a sports car enthusiast and ski addict, now spending his time in exile in Switzerland, in refuge, I should say, in Switzerland, where he is the royal playboy. Before Michael was deposed, he collaborated an increasing degree with the Communists, hoping by compromise and concession to them to hold on to his throne. But the Communists finally threw him out anyway. Third, there is the League of Free Rumanians, which is an independent democratic federation of associations of Rumanian exiles and personalities founded by General Nikileu Redescu (?) the (garble) statesman, enough said, and this represents by far the widest and most democratic of all the exile groups.

When Radio Free Europe and its affiliated operations were set up, the leaders of it chose as the Rumanian group to support, the King Michael group--of all things, the smallest, weakest, and most unrepresentative group of the lot, and the one that had collaborated with the Communists prior to the downfall of Rumania. The individual who was placed in charge of the Rumanian operations in Munich, with complete authority and judgment and editorial authority, was, and still is, a young man who calls himself Noel Bernard (?). Now, although his true name seems to be Noel Berkovitz (?), inasmuch as he still has a father who still lives in

Paris by that name and the father has been widely charged with being a Communist. Noel Bernard (?), according to my information, has not been in Rumania since before World War II, which means that it has been almost 20 years, and, inasmuch as he still is a young man, this means that he must have been a very tender age indeed when he left there. He is not now a Rumanian citizen, nor is he a naturalized citizen of the United States. Oddly enough, he is a naturalized citizen of Great Britain.

So there is considerable confusion connected with Mr. Noel Bernard (?). There has been a great deal of protest about Mr. Bernard's (?) broadcasts and policies on the part of the Rumanian exiles and particularly because of what is charged as a lukewarmness on his part toward Communism as a whole.

Enough of the generalities, however, let's get down to specifics. On February 14th 1955, in Bern, Switzerland, five young Rumanian patriots electrified the world and particularly the Rumanian world in exile by a very daring feat. The oldest was only 31 years old. In the dead of night, they broke into the Communist Rumanian legation in Bern, overpowered all resistance, seized the legation buildings, and barricaded themselves inside for nearly two days. While they ransacked the place, they found an entire military arsenal in the legation, uncovered all sorts of evidence of espionage activity--a short-wave radio transmitter, which was not allowed, automatic guns, all kinds of projectiles, time bombs, rockets, and a large quantity of ammunition.

This in the diplomatic mission of Red Rumania to Switzerland. According to the Swiss President, the information proved conclusively that the legation actually was a spy center. As an immediate result of the affair in Bern, the Swedish authorities in Stockholm, alerted by the incident, uncovered a similar important spy ring centered in the Rumanian and Czechoslovakian legations in Stockholm.

During the time the five young men held the legation in Bern, there was tremendous excitement and tension. The morning following the midnight coup, there were some 2,000 Swiss citizens around the legation and 200 police surrounding it in the court. When the boys at first refused to surrender, the Swiss police organized a seige at the insistence of the Communists and surrounded the legation with barbed-wire

entanglement. The price the young men demanded for surrendering was the release by the Communists of a Roman Catholic bishop, Rumanian Roman Catholic Bishop Suseu (?), and several other persecuted leaders of the Rumanian resistance.

Under the importuning of a Catholic priest, however, they finally gave up. And, on their way out of the legation, before giving themselves up to the police, they nailed on the wall--in full view of the crowd--the insignia of Free Rumania. The Communists tried to force Swiss authorities to turn the five young men over to them, to be returned to Rumania for trial and execution. The Swiss refused, tried them in Swiss courts instead, gave them minimum sentences. Leading attorneys in five countries offered their services free.

Now perhaps you'd be interested to know what Mr. Noel Bernard (?) had to say about this incident over his propaganda microphone of Radio Free Europe to the enslaved Rumanian people. The day after the heroic stand, he described the incident as being a Don Quiotesque action perpetrated by a group of desperadoes and an action of complete lawlessness. And he added that all the civilized world condemns the act executed by this group of Rumanians. He finally voiced at the conclusion of the broadcast the "hope that the young anti-Communist Rumanians will receive their deserved punishment for their actions, for which they are totally guilty."

Rumanian exiles throughout Europe immediately rose in protest to Radio Free Europe authorities, demanded that the young Britisher be removed and forbidden to make any further broadcasts. That was in February of 1955. All protests were to no avail. Mr. Bernard (?) remained in his job as head of the Rumanian desk of Radio Free Europe, and he is there as of today broadcasting to the people of Communist Rumania.

It's interesting, incidentally, that while the Free Europe committee is supporting financially the King Michael element of Rumanians in exile, the element which collaborated with the Russian Communists and sold the country out, there was not the first penny of support of these five young men in defending them at the Swiss trial.

There is one final crowning blow. On March 20th 1956, the Armstrong Circle Theater on TV, cooperating with the League of Free Rumanians, presented the story of the five heroes under the title "Five Who Shook the Mighty." It

It was a tremendous success to the extent that it was repeated later by popular demand. Although the committee for Free Europe did not raise a finger, either materially or morally to back this production on any level, they took advantage of the opportunity to insert a free public service advertisement for the Fund Raising Crusade for Freedom at the end of the show, thereby creating the impression that they had something to do with the Bern incident and the program itself. That is where your "truth dollars" go--"the message of courage and freedom to those behind the iron curtain."